

IDLE WORDS  
and THOUGHTS

GILBERT





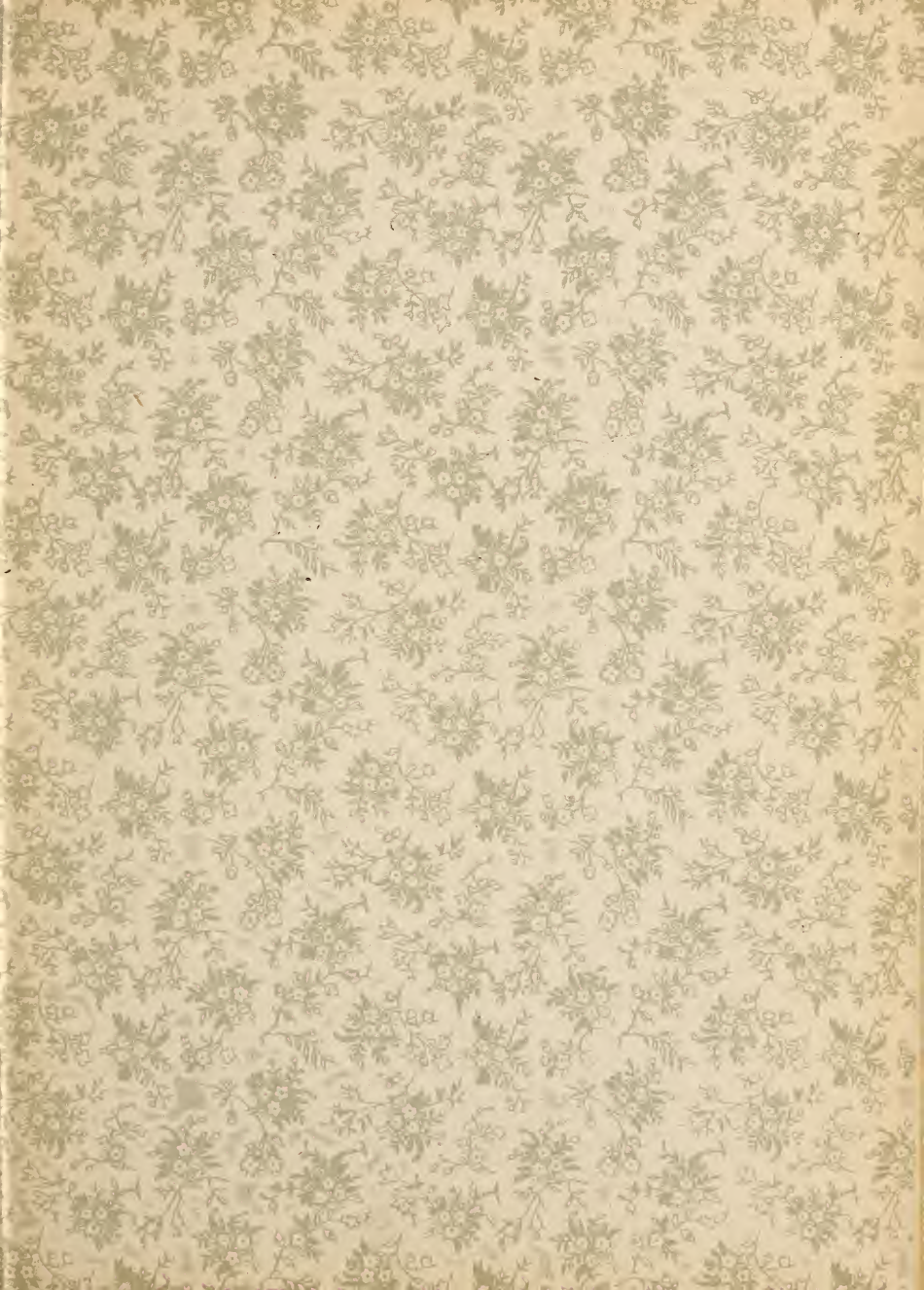
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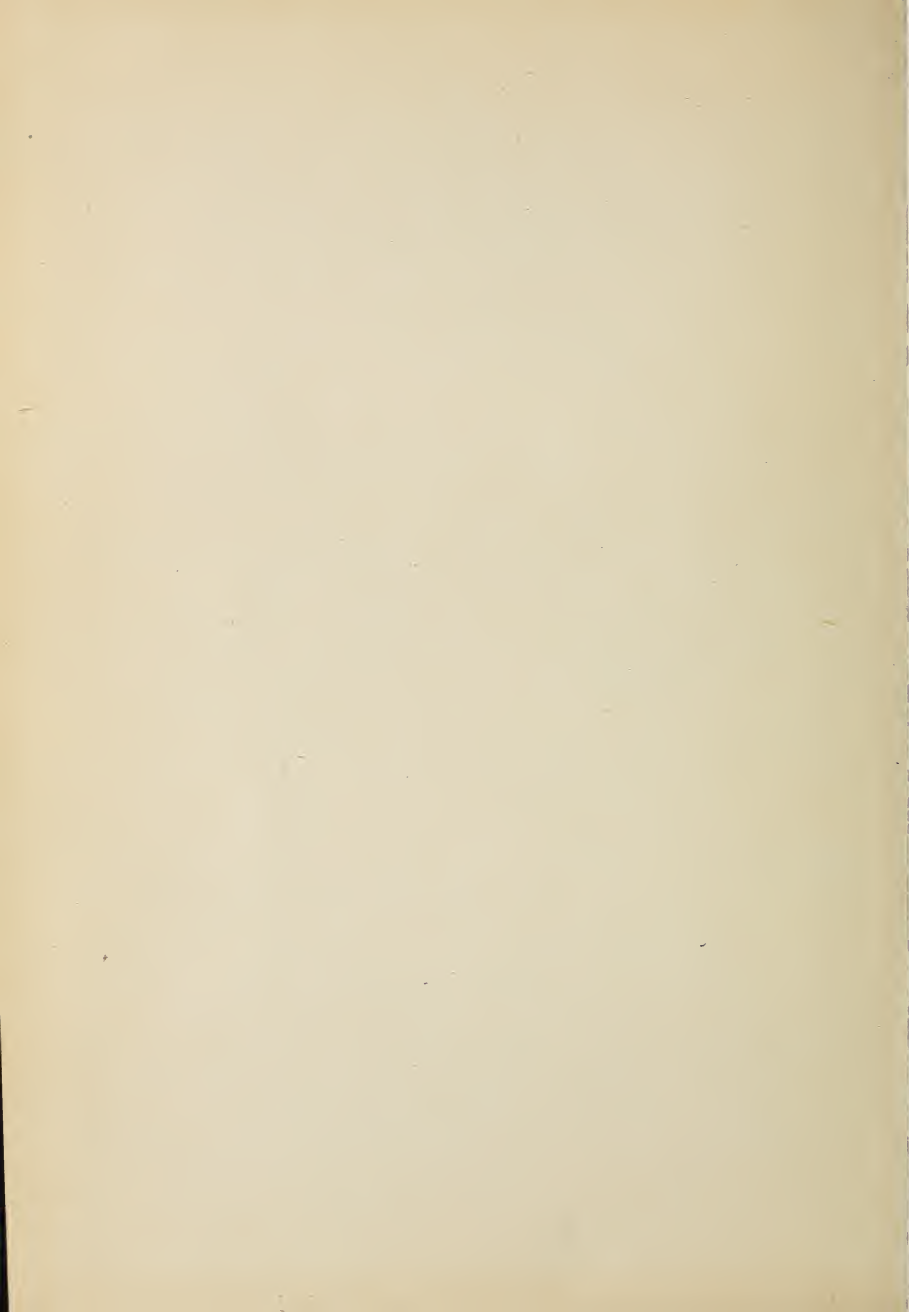
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# Idle Words and Thoughts.

BY  
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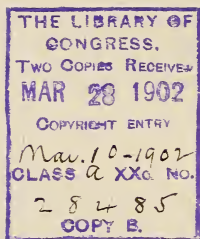
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OF

*Author of "The Christian Sabbath; or Sabbath of the  
New Covenant," "Through the Garden  
with Jesus."*

*Quoted by J. L. 1462*

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## PREFACE.

The training and shaping the mind into pure channels of thoughts and words should be something of great concern to every one.

The mind is formed by and through its association with persons or literature. It is a sad mistake to allow bad literature to enter the home; it poisons the minds of all who read until there is no room left for pure reading or learning. From these things the idle words and thoughts arise; so, also, is the character formed that makes beautiful or mars one for life. If you want purity in your home and life, be careful what you read or whom you associate with. Paul says, to the pure all things become pure. It is impossible to have a pure mind when it is fed on things impure. If you would be pure, let your conversation be chaste, your reading pure, your thoughts will be pure, your heart will be pure; so, also, then your words will be pure. It is dear schooling to read novels or story papers for pastime or pleasure. No one can do so and have a pure mind. No one can read a good book without good coming from the reading. No one can associate

with a pure Christian character without being benefited by its influence. There is no use in praying God to keep your children when you allow them to run at will, and with whom they will. Maybe, while you are praying for them they are out in the alley or street, taking lessons of lust and profanity from others. Better take the child with you when you pray; then keep your eyes open; *you help God answer your prayer.*

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are *pure*, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, *think* on these things.”—Paul.

For if you would be pure, you must seek purity. If you would be clean, you must not indulge in filthiness or foolish talking.

If you would know more of heaven, you must think on heavenly things.

If you would have a pure mind, *let your idle words and thoughts be a communion with your Lord and Master. He will give you a pure reward.*

*John N. Gilbert.*



*He Is Able.*

He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

According to the Power that *worketh* in us.—Ephesians, 3: 20.

*If we will let Him.*

For it is Christ that worketh in you to  
will and to do.

If you will let Him.



God is faithful, Who will not suffer you  
to be tempted above that ye are able;

But will with the temptation also make  
a way of escape.

That ye may be able to *bear it*.—1 Cor.  
10:13.

Just like Him.

Be of good cheer, I have *overcome* the world.—John 16: 33.

The abiding Christ *in you* is your strength.

Does He Abide?

In that He Himself hath suffered, being tempted. He is *able* to succor them that *are tempted*.—Heb. 12:18.

*To-day.*

In His humanity He suffered. Being touched with our infirmities, was in all points tempted like as we, yet without sin.

So we can come boldly and find grace in time of need.—Heb. 4: 16.



Now unto Him that is *able* to keep you from falling, and to present *you faultless* before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.—Jude 24.

If you will let Him.

Trust Him.

He will keep you.

Are you *able* to *drink* of the *cup* that I shall drink of, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?—Matt. 20:22.

*We Are.*

How many are *able* to give that answer? For the drinking of that cup *led* to the *Cross*. Cross means death. You must have this baptism.

—  
For the great day of His wrath has  
come. *And who shall be able to stand?—*  
Rev. 6:17.

They that have clean hands and a pure  
heart. The redeemed of the Lord shall  
stand.

Be There.

*Heaven is a place for God's children. Skeptics say there will be few people that go there, but Christ will be able to fill His mansion with a pure people, even if He has to go to the cradle to get them.*

*Except ye become as a little child ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*



For God is *able* of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.—Matt. 3: 9.

If parents will not raise their children for God, as He has intended, then God in His mercy will give them a place in His Kingdom.

If grown people will not serve Him, or go there, God will take the little ones before they have been corrupted by a life of sin.

He was able to take seven loaves and a few little fishes and feed 4,000 *men*, besides the women.—Matt. 15:34-38.

So when your soul hungers, He is *able* to satisfy its longings, for He satisfieth the hungry soul with goodness.—Psa. 107:9.

He is able to do more than we ask or think. Let Him.

Have faith in God.—Mark 11:22.

I have the faith of God. I live by the faith of the Son of God.—Gal. 2: 20.

Through faith the deep things of God are manifested.—1 Cor. 2:10-13.

“Lord, what shall this man do?” (The devil wants us to look at the other fellow.)  
“What is that to thee? Follow *thou Me*.”  
So many stop to ask that question.



The Son of Man shall come. And then  
He shall reward every man according to  
his works.—Matt. 16:27.

He gave authority to His servants. And  
to *every man his* work. And said, Watch.  
Are you watching?—Mark 13:34.

“Thy will be done” means the coming into our lives of a round of responsibilities, the highest energy of the universe. A will that knows no hard task, makes no mistakes *and is moved by love*.

Strange that every heart does not breathe such a petition.

The need of the second work in us is, the Lord looks at us internally. He sees the inner man, which is His abiding-place. Hence all carnal desires must be removed before the new man in Christ is perfected.

Why the second blessing? Does not God do a perfect work in the first? Yes, and also in the second. Did not Christ do a perfect work in His first coming? Yet we look to His second coming.

"The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."—2 Tim. 2:6.

He must first be sanctified before he can preach or teach sanctification.



Many say, "We are not worthy," and repeat the publican's prayer before he was justified, or call themselves worms of the dust to show their humbleness. But God says: "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common [nor unclean]." (Acts 10:15.)

"Ye are clean, ye are sons," does not deprive me of humility.

## THE CHRIST MIND AND HOW TO AT- TAIN IT.

I am often surprised as well as pained at the expressions of Christians in regard to the privilege they have in the Lord Jesus Christ. They choose a very low plane on which to live the Christ life. Some never get higher than the humility of the publican, which was that of a sinner before justification. Now, why should I stop at that kind of humility when it comes from a guilty condemnation and fear? But when our Lord has forgiven us and made us a *divine heir, a son of God*, He has just then created in us the *heart* that is capable of true humility and meekness. The true child will boldly declare what the Lord has done for him. Yet he is humble, for he realizes that it is through the blood of Jesus that the Christ life has come to his soul, with privileges so many and so great that he in his meekness cries out, *Abba, Father!* Then in his gratitude for his new relationship to God he will obey God in His commands,

and the higher he goes in his privilege, the greater will be his joy, until his heart will long for the greatest privilege that the Master has in store for him, even to the Image of our divine Lord, and also a partaker of the divine nature and to be armed with the *Divine Mind*; and as he loves God he will love God's Word, that has been given to us that we may know God's ways and God's will toward us.

1 Peter 4, first verse: "*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.*"

## THE CHRIST MIND.

“Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh,” and if we would be *like* Him, we also must suffer in the *flesh*, that we may cease *from sin*, that is from all lusts and worldly desires, which lead away from God. Then He says: “Arm yourselves with the *same mind*, for he that hath suffered in the flesh [dead to self] hath ceased from sin.” Arm yourselves with the *same mind*, the mind of Christ. This is our privilege, to not only have His mind, *but to live without sin*; and be *free from sin*, that we may have His mind in us. With a love like His for our fellow-man, with a yearning after lost souls like His, with the same desire to reach out a helping hand to those that are lost or fallen and to those who are in distress, to speak the words of Christ to them. The mind of Christ is to do the things Christ would do if He were here, and do the things that would please Him, to go where Christ would go and go to such places only, and under the same circumstances, always man-

ifesting His love for others, that His life may shine through us as His disciples. "That we no longer should live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the *will of God*."

For in Him we live and move and have our being. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, *even* as He is pure."—1 John 3:3.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that He may instruct him?"

"But we have the mind of Christ."—Rom. 3:16.

A pure heart will produce pure thoughts and pure thoughts will produce the mind of Christ, not in vastness or greatness, but in purity and desire.

"Heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with *Him*, that we may be glorified together."—Rom. 8:17.

Are we willing to suffer shame for His name? Are we willing to work for Him, and have our name left out?

Think it not strange when you are deserted by your friends or spoken evil of on account of your testimony for what the Lord has done for you. You will be left alone; you will have to taste the vinegar and gall. (Matt. 27:34.)

Jesus said they would do it. (Luke 21:16, 17.)

Make no compromise. Testify up to the light you have. Let your Christian character be that of sweetness of temper, but be firm for the Master; patient, loving, persevering, that His grace may shine through you.



An heir of God. Yet complaining and repining. If you suffer persecution or affliction or trials, *don't murmur or quarrel at God. Consider the suffering of His Son for you.* Then turn to Him for comfort. He will turn them to sweetness.

"For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, *to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*"  
—2 Cor. 4:6.

Does the image of Christ shine through *your face?*

“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.”—1 John 2:6.

Herein is *our* love made perfect that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.

Because as He *is*, so ARE WE IN THIS WORLD. This is a greater privilege than being a *worm* of the dust.

God loves a manly child, one that will obey and come to Him for instruction without fear.

He gave His Son to die that He might raise a family of children perfected in love and without fear that they may be one.

"I in them, and Thou in Me. That they may be made perfect in one."

A perfect child.

A perfect love.

A perfect harmony in and through Christ.

Why should I fear to go to such a Father for service?

Hear the Savior as He talks to the Father:

“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.”—John 17:9.

Oh, how *He* loved *us*! Some say these were not converted; if not, where do they belong?

Idle thoughts and idle words—what is their import, their mission, and whither do they lead? What can *an idle word do when spoken with harmful intent?* Idle words, spoken with evil intent, wound deeper than the sword of anger; yet the words often cause the sword to be drawn. They are the slime and venom of the serpent. Blasting character as he crawls, he enters the heart of innocence and purity, it withers and dies, beauty of character falls before it; it robs the home of its happiness and sweetness. Oh, the insinuation of an idle word spoken in a whisper in secret! Who hath not felt its blighting curse? *But who can ever stop it?* Who could draw its festering sting? Who can heal the wound of *the Idle Word?* Will apologies? No, the wound is there still. Will retractions? No, its influence never *comes home to stay*; always hurtful, on it goes as a ravenous beast. It invades the cradle as well as the grave. The home as well as the sanctuary is affected by its

*poison.* Is this all that can be said of idle words? No, the half can never be told.

The Savior says that every *idle word* that *men* shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by *thy words* thou shalt be *justified*, and by *thy words* thou shalt be *condemned*. Oh, reader, open your eyes wide. See these words of our Lord. Then think, think until you can fathom their *meaning*, and let your words be your justification.

Solomon says: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

"Put away from thee a froward mouth, A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers, he deviseth mischief continually, he soweth discord. Therefore his *calamity shall come suddenly*; *suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.* Keep my commandments and live. And my law as the *apple of thine eye.*"

Where are your words and thoughts today? As you read this do your thoughts fly backward to words uttered in the past that have been hurtful to some one, do they bring shame and condemnation to you, are they filthy or unclean, are they true or are they false? As they fall from your lips do they hurt your neighbor, and above everything else, *do they hurt your soul?*

Oh, do you cry out, "I am undone! Is there a remedy for me?" Yes. "Where?" Through Christ and under the blood. He will give you a new *heart*. Cast away from you all your transgressions and He will give you a new spirit. The heart is where all the trouble lies. He says: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they *shall see God*."

*Pure heart makes pure thoughts. Pure thoughts make pure words.*

"The cross now covers my sins. The past is under the blood." Yes, let the transforming hand of Jesus touch you. And the words that have been used in *idle*



*blasphemy* will be changed to words of praise. You will then hear Him say: "By thy words thou art justified." Oh, how different are the idle words! I have seen their magic touch, felt the consoling influence. See the tear of tenderness *come to the eye of sympathy* as some gentle and apparently *idle* word was uttered from the lips, but like the dew-drops from heaven they fell where there were suffering ones and sorrowing hearts to receive them. Oh, how quickly the drooping flower erected itself! *Just a kind word*, and what a change! Fountains would be started from eyes long dried up, and as *words* of thanks were attempted that stuck in the throat and died away in a sob, the heart was melted. Words could not express what the tears did. Have you seen *such idle words*? I have. Oh, how they are cherished by those who are distressed or deserted. *Idle words, so cheap. Yet worth so much. Thoughts* behind those words, where did they come from? Words that

were simple commonplace words, but tender words.

They came from a heart all purified and filed with the abiding Lord and His love and sympathy. I have seen these words in the bereaved home where hearts were sad and lacerated, broken with grief. Oh, what a panacea they were! I *have seen* the idle word quiet strife and preserve friendship. Yes, by thy words thou art justified. Gentle, kind, loving words can be used anywhere, everywhere, and will bring smiles and gladness wherever used. The world could be made better and happier if there were more such words used.

Then again, a heart like that will never blush at its thoughts when the Master comes. Even when alone, *never alone*, thoughts are pure and upon heavenly things. By thy words thou art justified.

In the morning sow thy seed. In the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

“The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, *and then* which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a *furnace of fire*. Then shall the *righteous* shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”—Matt. 13:41, 42, 43.

*Where are you?*

## THE SON IN HIS GLORY.

“And before Him shall be gathered all nations; *and He* shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his sheep from the goats*. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, *Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.*”—Matt. 25:32-34.

Say: *Are you a goat?*

### Devil's Ranch.

Nothing but  
goats in here.

Rocks and thorn  
bushes.

A little water.

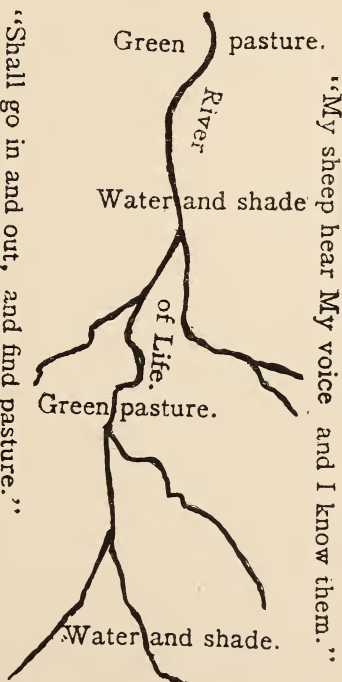
Many goats.

Barren waste.

Goats only.

### God's Sheepfold.

“Shall go in and out, and find pasture.”



“My sheep hear My voice and I know them.”

Where the goat will thrive sheep will starve. And *if* you are not a goat, keep off the ranch. But go to the pasture and the Shepherd will let you in. He knows His sheep. If you run with the goats, no one will think that you are a sheep.



If it were not so lamentable and sad, it would be laughable to see how quickly and earnestly some professed Christians will defend sin, always on the devil's side defending sin. Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Yet many say, "We can't help but sin." Thus contradicting Jesus when He said, "Whom the Son has made free, he is free indeed."

Many say they are the sons of *God*. *Who ever heard of the Son of God* committing sin? All a mistake, for they had left the fold of God and gone over to the goat ranch. And he cannot sin as long as *His Seed*, which is Jesus Christ, *remaineth* in him. So he that committeth sin is a sinner, and not a Christian.

Talk about sanctification and you will draw from many such remarks as this: "He that sayeth he is without sin is a liar." *Wrongly quoted, and usually cannot tell the chapter.* God says: "*He that committeth sin is of the devil.*"

What sin does God allow you to commit? Name it. Or what *does God ask you to do* that you cannot do? *Think*, and say, if you can, what commandment God was unjust in commanding.

To those who defend sin: If you would see a Christian commit sin, would it not destroy your faith in him as a Christian? Would you call him a hypocrite?

Does it not shake your confidence *in* the Christian when he frequents the theatre?

Do you say: "Would you rob us of all pleasure?" No, not by any means; but I pity the Christian that goes to the world for *his pleasure*.

You say: "How about the ball-room? Is it wrong to dance?" Yes. "Where 's the harm?" It cost John the Baptist his head, and since then has cost many a woman her virtue.

When I was young, I would rather dance with some other fellow's sister than to have some fellow dance with my sister.

Girls, the boys will think just as much of you if you don't *dance*.

“How about cards? Progressive euchre parties, are not they a quiet amusement? Where is the harm?” A school to make gamblers, and a device that gamblers always have used. I learn that at the lunatic asylums they use cards to amuse their patients, and to help them in a *pleasant pastime is a good thing*; but to see a table surrounded by intelligent beings *whom* God has endowed with a bright intellect capable of the highest attainment in worship, in power to do good and to make the world better by their lives—I say it is lamentable to see them amusing themselves with little pieces of pasteboard with spots and pictures on them.

I don't have these things to amuse me. My heart is in the Lord's keeping and it is full of joy.



## A TEST.

Go to a church festival. Look around for awhile. Pick out the most enegretic, rushing helpers that you see, the ones that have the greatest number of witty say-nothing words; whose smiles are always sweet and never *cease*; who by their energy in these frivolous things (which are a stench in the nostrils of God) have gained the name of being the greatest workers in the church. Ask them to pray in public. It might be they would. *Is it words or heartfelt prayer?* Ask them to go to some dying one and pray with them; do they tremble, do they go to the dying bedside with the *same zeal* and energy as they use around the *ice-cream table*?

Many cannot give a testimony. Why? *Because they have not got anything to say* and can't talk. *Haven't you* seen that kind of folks, that *didn't* believe in so much talk? They would rather see people *live their religion* (anyhow) and not make so much fuss about it. *May the Lord help such. How*

*long would it take to win the world to Christ at the gait they are going? How many of their own set really believe in their Christianity? For their devotion is parrot-like, merely repetition, lip service.*

It seems that John in his day could see *the danger* in worldly amusements, especially to the *young people* that love the Lord. Hear and heed what he says to you: "*I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*" Plainly these were Christians, *young people*, that John is warning against worldly amusements, such as theaters, balls, cards, church festivals and various entertainments given to catch the world with, but it works the other way; the world will catch the young Christians that will make this *compromise*.

Hence the danger.

John said: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If

*any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

*He has gone over to the goat ranch.*

*"All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

*"The world passeth away and the lust thereof." Thorn-bushes never will be good feed for sheep.*

*Conscience, Conscience.*

*But the will of God abideth forever.*

## THE SACRAMENT.

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils. *Do you do this?*

“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not *discerning* the Lord’s body.”

“What! Shall we quit taking the sacrament?” No; quit being a hypocrite. Get right with God; then the sacrament will be a blessing to you and not a curse.

Some people talk like they knew better how to run heaven than God does. God says: "None but the pure in heart shall see God."

They say they sin every day and they are on the way to heaven.

When they make the landing they will see their *mistake*.

The way some defend the devil and stick to sin is wonderful. God says ye are His *workmanship*. *They* say that no man is perfect. They certainly think that the devil's works are perfect.

They are willing to give him greater credit than they do God.

“The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his Master.”—Luke 6:40.

“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”—Phil. 2:5, 6.

A high privilege.



The reason some people cannot see a righteous, perfect man is, they look through lustful eyes and a corrupt heart. The gauge they measure by is their own standard.

Why is it that when you mention sanctification or second blessing before some Christians, that you can see old carnality rise up like the bristles on a dog's back and they are ready for a fight? Proving that they need a second blessing, *the indwelling Christ*.

## CHARITY, CHARITY!

Words born in heaven. The true *meaning* of these *heavenly messengers* is *love, sympathy and tenderness*. Charity rightly bestowed carries with it the great principal qualities of our *Master's life and purpose*. *Love*, mercy and a *help* for every one. Charity does not mean *some sort of almsgiving* as a mere duty performed. No, no; those who so look upon charity defame and *belittle* our Lord. He said, "It is better to give than to receive." Charity suffereth *long* and is *kind*; not selfish, but *kind*. The burdens of others become your burden. The distress of others makes you to share it with the distressed. Like our Savior; ever bearing about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. He gave His life for others, was long-suffering, *was kind*. When you give, do you do so in the Master's name and with a love like His for His creatures, *your*

*brothers*; or do you use it as a boy would his stilts, for *your own elevation*?

Oh, how much the sweet words of charity are abused? How often I have seen the white *robes* of *her* whom the Master has sent trailed in the dust of *selfishness*, until the very name is looked upon as a reproach! I have noticed the work of some of the *Leagues*. They have a charity and help department. At their business meeting they would read out the names of those who were so unfortunate as to need assistance, and then, to further humiliate their victims and elevate themselves before men, would *publish* reports of what the Leaguers had done.

Charity would not recognize her own pure white garments. They had robbed heaven of its greatest and purest angel. There was no room for Christ in the inn.

The difference. Another League filled with praying young people that worked in the name of Jesus. They had a charity and help department; at their business

meeting there were no names *read* out, nothing was given to the press for publicity. But come with me, we wander off down through the dark, we can see that we are among houses that denote humble people live there. We stop before a door, a light shines through the shutters, all is still; a knock, the door is gently opened, we step inside, and in whisper we hear the words: "Doctor sayseverythingmust be quiet." We look around. There are two persons nursing the sick. The room is commonly furnished, a little table holds the *medicine*. There is some delicacy on the table to tempt the appetite. Just then the sufferer moves, a groan escapes. Noiselessly the watchers are at the bed-side. Loving, tender hands stoop down and change the position of the sufferer and receive a "Thank you." Quietly we leave the house. My friend says, "What is this?" I tell him: "That is our League work. They have been caring for the family. The League found them, the wife was sick, the hus-

band could not leave her to work; they were helpless and strangers. Our League has cared for them near two months, sitting up with the sick, furnishing their food, and paying their rent." We meet the pastor of that League, mention what we have seen. He tells us that his League does most of his work in that line; they not only wait upon the sick, but they pray with them. Then I say, "Thank God! for the ravens are still alive." *Charity, charity* wears her white robes; is long-suffering and kind.

Jesus was there; He owned that League.

Don't give to anyone your old cast-off clothing in their distress, and then run around telling the neighbors, "I have *fixed* them *up*, so they can go to *church*. They've got no excuse now." *No Christ there.*

Another case: The man was taken sick, for five months was not able to work. The wife had the living to make. It was a hardship, but she stood nobly to the *work*, selling a few things from the garden, now

and then a chicken, a few eggs, but unflinchingly faced the battle. Things were getting close in that home, not exactly destitute, but a problem. The man drew a pension, \$8; rent was \$6.50. They had not asked for help. A minister and some of the brethren met. Mention was made of the sick person; how he was getting along, did he need anything? Wonder if he needs any help? The pension was mentioned at twice its size. They decided there was no danger of their suffering.

Charity spoke up and said, "Even if they get that much, how much would it be to them after their rent was *paid*? and he has been sick so long, surely they must need help." Charity went down to see; talked awhile, and with that discernment born of God, saw that some things were needed, and no means to buy with. Charity's heart was touched, tears of sympathy and *words* of kindness—both wept together. Charity dropped some money in the wife's hand, with a "God bless you; get what you need.

I'll come again." Before thanks could be offered, she had gone. Charity, charity. The kind words were worth *more* than the *money*. Which was charity, and which had Christ in it?



Many give a nickel's worth of sympathy and ten dollars' worth of advice.

Some will say to the woman, "Why don't you start a boarding-house? you could make money at that," when there is not enough money in the house to buy a *sun-bonnet*. Outfits cost something. *Don't do that*. If you can't help, don't talk. Your talk *might keep others from helping*.

A very sad thing is to see a preacher fighting the second blessing when he has no converts through his preaching, while God honors the work of the fellow they are fighting with converts and sanctifications at the same altar. Glory!

They put me in mind when I was learning to use a blacksnake whip. I *got mad at the mule* and sailed in to give it a good whipping, but when I caught the lash doubling around my own ears and face, I stopped and reflected. Moral: I learned to use the whip more perfectly.

Why is it that some ministers are so anxious to engage converts and those whom the Holy Ghost has sanctified under the preaching of another minister in argument and try to show them they did not get it right, and use all their powers to confuse them by telling them they had to grow into it, when Christ was sweetly abiding in them?

Brother, you are working for the devil when you try to trip a young convert. You know Jesus said it would be better if a millstone were around your neck than for you to make one of his little ones fall.

Some will work harder to trip others in their faith, causing them to fall, than they will to get a sinner converted, and then will rejoice at their downfall with a Satanic joy.

“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever *hath not, from him* shall be taken *away even that he hath.*”—Matt. 13:12.

Use what the Lord gives you for His glory and He will give more abundant.

Refuse to do this, and He will take away that you have. Proof: See dead Christians.

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might *redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise *thee.*”—Titus 2:14, 15.



Witness to what the Lord has done for you. Witness to *all* the light you have received; nothing more, nothing less.

Tell it, let no *man* keep you from testifying. Please God rather than *scorning* men.

## JOY, FULL.

The words of Jesus to His disciples, just before He paid the redemption price for us, that they might understand His mission that He would soon fulfill, and the part and responsibilities resting upon them in the plan of salvation as His followers. After telling them the things that would happen to *Him* and to *them*, He said: "These *things* have I spoken unto you, that *My* joy might remain in you, and that *your* joy might *be full*."—John 15:11.

"These things." What things? And why were those things of so much interest to them as to make their joy complete and full? And His joy would *remain* in them.

He said: "I go to prepare a place for you."

It is a holy place. To be *filled* with a holy people. "If I prepare a place for *you*, I will come again, and *receive* you to Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

On the condition that you obey Him, and keep His commandments.

*“He that believeth on Me, the works that I do he shall do, and greater works than these he shall do.”*

The greatest work is soul-saving. Man is the means through which Jesus will work. “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Suppose you don't keep them.

“And if you ask anything, I will do it.”

*If you keep them.* “I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter.” They already had one comforter, but He shall give them another comforter. *“Even the Spirit of Truth; Whom the world cannot receive: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* “*And shall be in you.*” This proves that Jesus was talking to Christians, and they could receive the Holy Ghost, Which was the Comforter, but the world (sinners) could not receive the Holy Ghost, *it knows Him not.*

“He that keepeth My commandments, he it is that loveth Me.” (*What if you don't*

keep them?) "And he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will *manifest Myself* to him." *His spirit will witness with our spirit that He does love us.*

"The Comforter, Which is the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things." *Are you teachable?*

"These things I have spoken to you being yet present with you." That when you receive the Holy Ghost, He will give you an understanding heart, and will teach you. "That My joy might *remain* in you, and your joy might be *full*. And that ye may know that I am in the Father and ye in Me." So He says, *every branch in me that beareth not fruit* He taketh away.

Those that bear no fruit will never see that holy place prepared for them. The barren fig tree withered, and every branch that *beareth* fruit the husbandman *purgeth*; that is, he trims and prunes it, taking away all sprouts that would weaken and draw sap from the bearing limb, thus giving

the bearing member every chance to perfect its fruit.

*Now, ye are clean* meat for the Master's use, and prepared for that holy place prepared for you. So, "Abide in Me and bear much fruit until I come again. Without Me ye can do nothing."

"If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch *and burned.*" He does not see that holy place.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit. *So shall ye be My disciples.* As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you. *If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.*"

"These things I have spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might *be full.*"

"I the Lord search the heart. I try the reins *even to give every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.*" *Some will reap a terrible harvest.*

As a partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by *right shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end be a fool.*

“If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live, he shall not die.” *Better make restitution now than after awhile.*

Don't try to take it into eternity with you.

Many do not seem to realize that God will hold them responsible for the way they handle the dollars that He has given them. If for every idle word men shall utter they must render an account, how much more will he have to render an account for misspent dollars?



He has given into your hands means to help those who have not been favored as you have. Maybe it is through affliction. He needs your help. General Booth says, "There is the man before you, his pocket is empty, his stomach is empty, he does not come as a beggar. *What are you going to do?*"

“Surely the serpent will bite without  
enchantment; and a babbler *is no better*”  
—Eccl. 10:11.

*Think.*

## UNTEMPERED MORTAR.

Some will tell the sinner to just turn around and go the other way. You can take your sins with you either way you go. *There is something written on that slate* that must be wiped off. Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." It takes the *blood* of Christ to *clean* the slate.

Some will say, "Just go and be baptized and join the Church and that will be all right," when the fellow is not within a thousand miles of being right. Christ says, "Ye must be born again." *Better get converted; then* you will know something about it.

If I did not know God, I would not try to tell others where and how to find Him. I might make a mistake and send them to the wrong place. No one can teach more than he knows. God will hold you accountable.

## GOD'S CALL.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”—Acts 20:28.

To-day I listened to a sermon from this text, to prove infant baptism. We were led back through the times and sayings of Jesus, of His blessing little children and saying, “Of such is the kingdom of heaven”; then back to Abraham’s time, when God had made promises to him; and how in the times of the Jews infants were circumcised, which act water baptism has taken the place of. So he labored hard for over one hour to prove that it was right to baptize infants and did so to his own satisfaction. But did not give even a crumb to the hungry souls that wanted to learn more of the life-giving power of the Lord Jesus, and that which the text plainly said the overseers should give the flock. Yet there

was no food given. Feed the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers. Yet we received the *whely* instead of the sincere milk of the *Word*. He called it preaching a strong sermon. But as I sat and listened I did not see much of our Christ in his sermon. For Christ said to Peter: "Lovest thou Me?" Peter said: "Thou knowest that I love Thee." He said: "Feed My lambs." And to impress the need of this food, He repeats the same question. And also the same, "Feed My sheep." And again the third time He said to Peter, to make it more impressive, "Feed My sheep."

Oh, if our pastors would only do what the Master said to Peter, feed the sheep that are *in their flocks*! Oh, how disappointing it is to one who wants to taste of this heavenly manna, to be fed on doctrine or something that is *not salvation* nor *satisfying*! It makes my heart sad and sick when I see so many sheep straying away for lack of food at home. And in their search for the

bread of life, they have become disappointed and despondent and are going away into the wilderness again, while the pastor is trying to *prove to the people* that he is learned and wise as well as an orator or an eloquent speaker. Self-laudation shows in all their utterances; self more than Christ is what they give. Christ has said, "*I am the bread of life.*" He said to Peter: "Feed My sheep." Of course, he wanted Peter to feed them with the bread of life, which is Christ. Now, see what Peter has to say about it.

1st Peter 2-4: To the elders, "Feed the flock of God, which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; *not filthy lucre*, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." Not to lord it over the flock, but to feed them. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

So you see that Peter in obeying the



Lord is not only feeding His sheep, but is also instructing the elders and those who have rule over the flock of Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd of all the sheep. He said to them, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." How little humanity there is in our pulpits by our shepherds of to-day!

That is the reason there is so much barrenness in our churches to-day, and so few of God-honored, God-exalted *shepherds*.

By their fruits ye may know them.

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they *make you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

God calls His anointed to preach, men Spirit-filled and *fruit-bearers*.

Holiness people use a great deal of

another kind of untempered mortar. Some ministers will say they preach holiness, but don't believe in it like I do; they believe in growing into it. They have no witnesses to ever receiving the Holy Ghost.

God does not teach that way. He gives no promise for the future. To-day is the day of salvation.

There are a great many holiness people, but not so many *holy people*. A holy people bear much fruit and are a peculiar people. The devil tries very hard to counterfeit true holiness, but it won't bear godly fruit.

A great many altar-workers will try to get seekers sanctified when their consecration is not complete; hence a failure. Then they press them to take it by faith. "Just trust Him and receive *Him by faith* and testify to your sanctification and He will come." God does not authorize any such teaching. God offers a *present*, a perfect and a free salvation. God's gifts always come suddenly, when the *consecration* is complete, which may take the seeker some time to accomplish. Then they are on faith ground. Faith spontaneously reaches up; and suddenly the Lord whom ye seek will come to His *Temple*. There is no waiting, no time asked for; He does not tease His waiting child, but comes suddenly to His own.

God wants skilled workmen to do His work; then it will not need so much repairing. It is less trouble to do the work right, although it may take a little longer to do a first-class job than to do shoddy work, that will have to be gone over again. Don't

rush the penitent seekers through; let God tell them when the work is done. You have no such authority. God will attend to that.

If you are working among the unsaved trying to instruct them how to seek the Lord, search your own heart; see if you are in the faith or not. If not, stop at once. Seek Him until you are; *then work.*

When believers are seeking sanctification, and you are at the altar trying to instruct them, stop and ask yourself the question, "Am I in the faith or not?" If you are not sure, quit the altar at once. For you are using untempered mortar. You will do more harm than good. The cause has already suffered untold loss by foolish, incompetent workmen. Keep out of the way. None but the redeemed can teach the way to God.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly* dividing the word of truth.”—2 Tim. 2:13.

*A workman rightly* dividing, so that the truth may be revealed in all of its beauty and rightly understood. This is a key that makes a complete *harmony in the Word of God*.



Some people read their Bible like it was a job which was distasteful to them; like a bitter dose of medicine, that they would hurry through and have done with it; never in meditation, never any *wiser for its reading*.

I wonder how they can read so much, and be so ignorant of its teaching.

“How readest thou?”—Luke 10:26.

Reader, when you read the Bible, do you read it as a mere history, telling of the past, something happened long ago; or do you see in it a message to you, fresh from God? *For to-day* do you realize that you are face to face with God, and it is God talking to you; that He is speaking sweet words of promise and cheer to you? or is His gentle voice giving a warning against sinful things, and as He speaks to you of His righteousness and your privilege in Him, does your heart pant and long for His Holy Spirit to dwell and abide in your thirsty soul? Do you lay your life side by side with His Word as an example?

## THE DESTRUCTION OF ENEMIES.

“I have pursued mine enemies [sin] and overtaken them:” [Aggressive, attacking, not waiting to be attacked.] “neither did I turn again till they were consumed.” [Sin destroyed.] “I have wounded them that they were not able to rise [victory]: they are fallen under my feet.” [Sin is under.]—Psalms 18:37-38.

This is justification.

“For Thou hast girded me with strength unto the *battle*: Thou hast subdued under me *those* that rose up against me.” [The adversary.] “Thou hast also *given* me the *necks of mine enemies*; that I might *destroy* them that hate me.”—Psalms 18:39-40.

This is sanctification.

In the *gifts* of God *everything* is provided for us, that we may do *His will*. In our *weakness* He is our strength; nothing is *impossible*. *Obey Him*. *He* will lead the way and provide the *means*.

“For the Lord giveth *wisdom*. Out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”

“Unto you is *given* to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without all these things are in parables.”—Jesus.

Have you learned the language of Heaven? It is only given to them that know Him, so that they can understand their teacher.

## A CURE FOR BLUES.

I was one time sitting musing. The way to me was dark. I could not see my way through. Out of work, out of provisions at home. I had been everywhere that I could think. No work. I sat and wondered what I would do with myself (not suicide), but what could I do? As I sat there I took the Way of Life out of my pocket and commenced to read. My eyes fell on this little paragraph; I read it; it was like a ray of sunshine on my path. It has done me so much good. I will send it out as Idle Words, hoping that it may live on to brighten and cheer others on the way.

“Put yourself in the hands of God and stay there. Have you difficulties? Put them in the hands of Him who can manage them for you. Have you experiences which you cannot fully understand? Put them also in the hands of Him who can take care of experiences. *Is it true* that you do not *know what to do* with yourself?

Give yourself to *Jesus*, and trust, and not be afraid; simply trusting, that is all."

In the furnace God prove thee,

Thence to bring thee forth more bright;

But can never cease to love thee,

Thou art precious in His sight.

*God is with thee.*

God thine everlasting light.

"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom."—Luke 21:15.

What a pity that more will not go to Him for a wise mouth and stop their foolish prattle.



There is much time wasted by trying to prove the divinity of Jesus Christ. I have listened to long and labored sermons to congregations that did not have a doubt about it, but were hungry for the crucified Christ, the Redeemer, but went away as hungry as they were when they came. They were disappointed with the sermon. *Better* preach to get people saved. Christ will prove His divinity in less time than you can.

God made man and pronounced the work good. The devil went to the Garden, deceived Eve and sowed *evil*, and *man became bad*. Now to restore man. The man must have the bad taken out. When the bad is taken out, man becomes good and God calls the man righteous, which is *good*.

Many will say that when God sanctified them, He took the temper out. No, no; He only showed them how to use it. If I cut myself with an axe, I do not take the temper out of the axe, but I am more careful how I use it. It was not the axe's fault.

The temper is the life of the metal. So it is with man. When God made man, He gave him a temper for use, and the man that has no temper does not have much vim in him. You notice a real wicked man, one that is always in the lead in wickedness; put him on the grindstone of God's Eternal Truth and let God shape him up and turn him loose. Then you will see out of that quick-tempered, wicked man one of the most persistent, energetic Christian workers that you can find. Where it was fight before, it is patience now. Where it was hatred and profanity, it is love and praise. He has found the right purpose.

Personal liberty consists in one making the best citizen possible out of oneself. Our high privilege in obeying the laws of

our country. When man violates law, he becomes a criminal under that law, and has no right to claim citizenship under the law. We have men elected who have taken oath to uphold the law, who will stand and see the law violated all day on the Sabbath by a foreign element that have no regard for our institutions; but let poor old Cocaine Jim try to run the hoodlums away for tormenting him, and they will arrest him, "jug" him for misdemeanor, but never protect Jim.

How few they are who can stand criticism, when it is a very natural thing for us to indulge in criticising one another! There is nothing in friendly criticism that makes one any the less a friend, but there is a grace in learning how to bear it. So sensitive that we cannot stand it to have our little faults talked about, but ever ready to exercise that function towards others. Let us learn and be willing to bear friendly criticism, but don't be malicious in your criticism.

## INFLUENCE.

Your influence, what is it, good or bad? You are helping to shape somebody's character. Will it prove good, or will it be a curse to you and them? Others are watching us. Let us be careful how we appear in the sight of God to others.

## CARDS.

Talking with a leading man in church work, etc., he said they played cards at his house. I said: "Don't be surprised if your children learn to gamble." He said: "I am not afraid of that." "Do your neighbors' children come and play?" "Yes." "Well," I said, "you may pass your children through the fire, and they may not get burned, but you may be the means of ruining your neighbor's' children. Look out; you may have something to answer for."

Influence.

A minister's wife would give testimony to sanctification at times. Then at other times her testimony was lifeless. I wondered why the oft change until I passed the theatre. She came out as I passed. It was plain why she could not testify.

Most men of influence drink the social glass. Men of fine business talent, little dreaming the influence they are exercising over young men that are anxious to become successful in life, and their drinking qualities have become patterns to the young as well as their business qualities, thereby causing the ruin of many bright young men, who have followed their example.

Influence.

Is it not *strange* that saloon-keepers always want sober men to *keep bar* for them? This fact alone should keep young men from the saloon or acquiring the drink habit. Other business men prefer sober young men in their employ. Young men, if you could see the wrecks along the road, you would let it alone.

Influence.

Paul says: "For meat destroy not the work of God, it is *good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.*"

"If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

Influence.



Do you buy on the Sabbath day that you may feast, and then go to church? Some one sees your example. It may be the man you buy from. You compel him to keep open to satisfy your own selfishness, causing him to offend, and depriving him from church privileges.

Influence.

Some say, "If I don't do anything worse than that, I will go to heaven." You seem to think you know more about it than the Lord. For Jesus said the branch that beareth no fruit He taketh away. Don't you imagine that the Lord will let you sit still in disobedience; you will find that God can run heaven without you and His name will be honored even if you go to hell.

“Why call ye me Lord, and do not the *things I say?*”—Jesus. Yet we see a great many trying to climb up some other way, instead of entering the open door, which is Jesus Christ. Enter through the door, it is the easiest way.

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then *we have* confidence toward God. And what we ask, we receive of Him, *because* we keep His commandments, and do those *things that please Him*. Some say, if they do what *they think*. What we think will lead us wrong at times. Find what God thinks and do that and you will make no mistake. No condemnation.

“Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly! Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy *crown*.”

## RICHES.

“They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them.” They are still disobedient, seeking some other way.

“They have made them a molten calf and have worshiped it.” They are *worshiping the golden calf to-day* and have been ever since Aaron made that calf. Is it not strange that calf never got to be a grown animal? Never did have *enough gold in it to satisfy a Jew, always a calf.*

“And have sacrificed thereunto and said, These be thy gods.” Money is their god to-day. They sacrifice unto gold; they worship it; never get riches enough to satisfy; continually growing, but never grown.

“He that loveth *silver* shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them, and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes.

The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.”—Solomon.

“He that had gathered much had nothing over. And he that gathered little had no lack.”

“Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.”



## GOD'S WITNESS TO US.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. And if children, *then heirs of God*, and joint-heirs with Christ. *If* we suffer with Him that we may be glorified *together*, on condition that we suffer with Him. Just think what a soldier would be worth to his government that would not be willing to help fight its battles or bear its hardships or sufferings. It is a warfare and we are good soldiers, if we suffer with Him. "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed *in us*." And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to His purpose. For as the gold is tried and refined in the fire, so if we endure unto the end and suffer with Him, in patience, in trials, trusting in Him in every conflict, He in turn will make these things work together for our good by bringing forth His *image*

in us, for we shall be like Him. Then who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or *nakedness*, or peril, or sword?

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors. Through Him that loved us, *more than conquerors*.

*More than conqueror.* An heir of God, a joint-heir with Jesus Christ, made in the image of Christ. *If we suffer with Him*, we will be glorified together. So when trials are upon you, don't quarrel at God; just look up and say, "Drive the nails, Lord; I will bear it for Thee.

Then we can see what John saw. One of the elders said to John: "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" And John said unto him: "Sir, thou knowest." He said to John: "These are they which came out of *great tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in his temple:" [*Ye are the temple.*] "and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto

living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Dear reader, this is your privilege, to have this home and to wear the robe made white in the blood of the Lamb. The way is up through great tribulations.

## REAPING, REJOICING.

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest. Behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white and ready to harvest."—Jesus.

Put in your sickle and reap; the grain is ready and must be gathered.

"He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."—Jesus.

One soweth and another reapeth. What a beautiful sight when you can see Christians at work in this way, all pulling the same way for the Lord and for souls! No jealousy among them; all doing their best. Oh, how God does bless workers of that kind!

He says: "I sent you to reap that on which you had bestowed no labor. Other men labored and ye are entered into their labors." This is the Lord's plan. But how sadly it is changed into a contentious rab-

ble! Instead of working together, they seem to want to destroy the fields of grain that the Savior has sent them to gather and pay them wages throughout eternity. They sow tares and discord and then laugh with a Satanic laugh when the work of the other has failed. I know men that will work harder to trip a sanctified person than they will to get a sinner converted. The devil has the muzzle on that fellow.

## PRECIOUS PROMISE.

Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have. For He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Some say they never have seen a contented person. Maybe not, but I have. You may not know what contentment is. It is this: covet nothing; do not repine or complain; be satisfied with your lot or present condition; if your condition is not all that you would desire, be *content* to work it up to what you desire. Don't covet riches, but keep your heart free from covetousness and do what thy hands find to do with a willing mind. It will make your work light and your heart will have no burdens.

Put your trust in the Lord and He will never leave thee. *Idleness is not contentment.*

So that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." I have tested these promises, and they have never failed me.

One-half of the world does not know how the other half lives. And they will try harder to pry into your secrets than they do to serve the Lord, or attend to their own business.



## DECEIT.

People have practiced deceit until they have become so adept at it they think they can fool God. I once listened to a very learned minister talking about purity. He said that man was not pure, but Jesus had come, died for us, and He was our advocate before God, and when pleading for us He held up the blood and when God looked at us it was through the pure blood of Jesus and He (God) thought we were pure. As much as to say God had been tricked by His own Son and deceived. *The blood cleanseth us from all sin.*

Where the Holy Ghost is honored, He will honor His work by converting and sanctifying the people. The church that has the least sign of the Holy Ghost is that church that has the fewest converts, yet gives the greatest number of entertainments, ice cream, etc. They are busy, but dead. *A dead mother cannot bring forth living children.*

The fig tree had every appearance of doing business at the old stand, but when the Savior went after fruit to satisfy His hunger, *He found nothing, He found nothing* but show; the tree had gone out of business and was only a delusion and a snare.

Pride and folly will satisfy the hungry soul. The more feathers you put on a woman's head, the less piety you will find in her heart.

When you see men enjoying vulgar talk, laughing and having what they call a good time, let some one that is full of the Holy Ghost speak of a loving Christ, and they will to a man vote him a bore or a "crank."

Some would-be leaders in the church can get along with worldly entertainments much better than they do at the prayer-meeting here at home.

The elders could get along better with Barabbas than they could with Christ. *So they killed Christ.*

One man says that these people that are always testifying to the same thing *drive people away*. He says he can't stand it to hear them talk, but he can tell of several entertainments a week. He don't understand the red-hot Christian. He prefers Barabbas.

They will try to get one that has regard for other *people's feelings* to lead the League. Then they have a real parrot show by giving clippings to each one to read. Nothing original unless it is the folly of the leader. But they have shut *that "crank" out*.

Strange how some use and study the Bible; *use it to down somebody in argument, search for points*, cut off this verse and that to make it mean something. Seeking to pervert the Scripture, not to find the truth, but to dodge it. Better look out. God has given you His Word not for a plaything, but as a guide to lead you into the city of refuge. *Be careful.*

Idle words.



Some will contend that none is perfect. They are good, but not perfect. They differ a little with God. God says be perfect; but we can't; we can be good, but to be perfect is saying too much. I know some *good* people, but they are not perfect. They do *so-and-so*. Did it ever occur to you that the imperfection *was in you* and not in them. Sometimes I am glad *I only have to please God to be perfect.*

It sounds bad when a woman will say no one can live a pure life. Suppose I would tell her children that their mother was an impure woman. Think it possible to offer her any greater insult? No, no; but *idle words sound badly sometimes*. God says everyone that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as *He is pure*. Who knows best, God or the other fellow?

## FOOTPRINTS.

Step in them.

Put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts.

Be renewed in the Spirit of your mind.

Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Put away lying, speak truth with your neighbor, for we are members, one of another.

Neither give place to the devil. (Watch your idle words.) Let him that stole steal no more. Don't cheat. Let him labor with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. Grieve not the Holy Sprit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.

## CHRISTIAN PERFECTION.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Be followers of God, as dear children.  
And walk in love as Christ also hath loved  
us and hath given Himself for us an offering  
and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling  
savor. The childlike simplicity  
and trust, with an humble, thankful,  
uncomplaining spirit, following the Spirit  
wherever He leads, *gives victory.*

## TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH

are given all the promises of the Word of God. To him that overcometh all things pertaining to salvation and a perfect life in Christ be given; all wisdom, knowledge, grace and strength will be given to him that overcometh, that they may understand the deep things of God and to keep and do His commandments. "For without Me ye can do nothing." If you would overcome, you must take Christ as your partner in every thing; then you can bear much fruit and do those things that will honor and please Him. "He that endureth to the end shall be saved. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before His angels. And I will be with him, even unto the end. I will be with him always." Yes; all the precious promises in His Word are my own. For He has given me His Word, and that Word is my guide for this life.

He says to *him* that overcometh, he shall inherit all things. An heir of God. Oh, how great is this promise! How we should strive to live and keep His commandments! He even offers to give us His mind, that we may know what the will and the mind of the Lord is concerning *us*. That will overcome. He says: "Arm yourselves with the same mind." He wants us to have His mind, for it is Him that worketh in us to will and to do His will. So if we would overcome, we must also want *this* mind of our Lord, *above* and more than everything else. Our very soul must hunger and thirst for it. We must want it even more than life itself. This is what He means when He says to *him that overcometh*: "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you; *ask*, and *ye shall* receive. Behold I stand at the door and knock: *if any man will open, I will come in.*" This is the "overcometh" that crowns every effort with success, *disarms the enemies of our souls*, and gives us the *mind of our Lord, Who overcame him*, that



through our Lord we also might overcome and live. So there will not be any obstacle in the way, it matters not how great and difficult it may seem, but what He will provide the way to surmount it when we come to it, *to him that overcometh.*

As He did the children of Israel at the *Red Sea*. *The Red Sea* in front, Pharaoh behind. God said to them, "Go forward." To the eye of man it would seem certain destruction. What an obstacle! How could they go? What an impossibility! Farther than the eye could reach were the waters, behind was the enemy that was coming to destroy them, yet the *command comes*, "*Go forward!*" Can you conceive anything more impossible? But see, at the command, "Go!" Moses steps to the water, forward his staff raised. In faith the waters begin to roll backward and apart, until there lies out before them the *way* of escape. What had seemed to be an unsurmountable obstacle was turned into a beautiful WAY. Yes, out before them

lay as far as the eye could see a beautiful turnpike with a wall of security on either side, and the children of Israel passed over *dry shod*, while the *way* that was deliverance to them was the destruction of their enemies. Yes, to him that overcometh there shall be a *way opened*.

Isaiah says there shall be a *highway and a way*, and it shall be called *the Way of Holiness*. Nothing unclean shall pass over it. No lion shall be there.

So the very means by which God provides salvation for His overcoming children will prove the destruction of His enemies.

But see: after God had delivered them and destroyed the enemy and led them to a goodly land and told them *to go* in and possess the land as an inheritance. But no, they stop at *Jordan*, a little narrow stream. God said, "Go over and possess the land." They became fearful of the *giants* that were over there, and murmured, even after their deliverance from Pharaoh.

They doubted God and sinned by refusing to go over and possess the land. Now see the result of sin. God had prepared the *way*. The children were on this *way* that led to holiness, where there is no ravenous beast. They *sinned*. To them the *way* that had been their deliverance now became their *wilderness* and their destruction. They wandered in the wilderness forty years, *until they*, like Pharaoh, *perished*. There was none that had *sinned* that entered that Holy Land. There were only Joshua and Caleb that had lived on this *highway*. They were not afraid of the giants; they found no lion or ravenous beast on the way. They overcame. The way that led across the Red Sea also crossed Jordan, a beautiful way, and they entered the land and did possess it *in holiness*. They overcame. But the fearful and unbelieving perished as Pharaoh's host, for they became unclean through disobedience and doubts.

Nothing unclean shall pass over this

*holy highway.* "But to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with with Me in My throne." Oh! this precious promise reaches out to you, it reaches me. Will you not go over and possess the land? Our Lord will remove every obstacle that appears in the *way*, to him that overcometh.

## WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

*You* know not what *will* be on the morrow.

Is it a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away?

Is it a beautiful garden, a vineyard where God can come and find nothing but the choicest fruits and grapes in great clusters for His use? does He have full right of way? is it kept for the Master's use? is it His abiding-place, where you can sit at His feet and learn from Him the true way; where you can lay your life along side by side with His *Word* and feel the assurance of His approval? Is your life one of sweet communion continually with Him? Are your idle words and thoughts moments of pleasure with Him? Or is your life a vapor in His sight, a blank that has brought no fruit to the Master, neither good to any that are hungry or thirsty? Has your life been one of failure with an influence that has brought bitterness to the hearts of others instead of

sweetness? Have you allowed the old serpent to enter your Garden of Eden and despoil that which was fair and pure and in the image of Him that planted it there?

When He comes to the garden, does He find a hedge of thorns and thistles where fruit and flowers had grown? does He find the serpent instead of the songbirds that made music for Him when He came for fruit? And where is the gardener that He placed in charge of this beautiful palace and garden, where He is to live and abide? Does the gardener run to meet his Lord and Master with a glad welcome, or would you run and hide for shame and fear? Would your soul be ready for the Bridegroom when He comes? Would it be a vapor that it would vanish away, or would He find therein the Tree of Life laden with precious fruit all ripe and golden, ready for the Master's use?

Are you satisfied with your life? Are you living a life hid in Christ, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord



Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body? For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake. That the life also of Jesus might be *made manifest* in our *mortal flesh*.

Are you willing to bear the reproach that fell on Him? endure the shame? persecuted and reviled, left alone and scorned by those who have been your friends? Could you wear the mark of Christ as He did when the mob was trying Him for His life? Could you in meekness say no word of defense or murmur against your enemies when falsely accused and condemned? And yet He, the blessed Son of God, did all this and more for you.

What is your life worth to you? What do you value your life at? Do you get out of your life a real comfort or joy? Has it been a benefit to you or a blessing to others? Have you a consciousness that the world is made better by your living in it? Then, as He has done so much for you, *what* is your life worth to Him? How

much does He value it at? Can you say, or even think, or would you dare to place an estimate of what your services to Him would be? Yet you are not your own. *You* are bought with a *price*. He put a price on your life. Think, if you can, the real value that He paid out for you and for your life. You that were a slave in sin and dead in trespass, He bought you that He might set you free. He gave His life for you, that He might resurrect and give His life to you, to implant His divine nature in you, His spirit in you, to teach and direct you; His meekness and humility, that it may reflect His image and His disposition as you go out to help to *seek* and *save the lost*. Yes, this is why He paid the redemption price for you, that He might use you to help save and win the world for Him. Are you a fruit-bearing branch, a part of Christ? Remember; the branch that beareth no fruit He taketh away. What is your life, and what will it be when He comes to give to every man his reward?



## VICTOR HUGO ON IMMORTALITY.

"I feel in myself the future life. I am like a forest once cut down; the new shoots are stronger and livelier than ever. I am rising, I know, towards the sky. The sunshine is on my head. The earth gives me its generous sap, but heaven lights me with the reflection of unknown worlds. You say the soul is nothing but the resultant of bodily powers. Why, then, is my soul more luminous when my bodily powers begin to fail? Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. There I breathe at this hour the fragrance of the lilacs, the violets and the roses as at twenty years. The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the worlds which invite me.

"It is marvelous, yet simple. It is a fairy tale and it is a history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and in verse. History, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode and

song—I have tried all. But I feel I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me.

“When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, I have finished my day’s work. But I cannot say I have finished my life. My day’s work will begin again in the morning. The tomb is not a blind alley, it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight, it opens with the dawn.”

Yours in Christ,

JOHN N. GILBERT.

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